

March 30th, 2022
Clinton Parks & Recreation Meeting
6:15pm
Clinton Parks & Recreation Building
560 High Street

Call to Order: 6:15pm

Attendance: Chairman Ed Verrier, Commissioner Patti Kerrigan, Commissioner Amanda Agnitti, Commissioner John Green, Commissioner Mike Garofoli, Director Mackenzie Maloof

Administrative:

1. Review and acceptance of previous meeting minutes
 - John motions to accept the minutes from March 9, 2022. Patti seconds, all in favor.

Parks & Recreation:

1. Department Updates
 - Mackenzie explains that Parks & Recreation is involved with *Project KidSafe* again this year. A program through law office Breakstone, White, and Gluck, which provides free bicycle helmets to kids in the community.
 - Mackenzie details that the department is teaming up with the Worcester Red Sox to host *Clinton Night* on May 18, 2022. Funds raised will go to the 2022 After Prom, and then all left over funds will go to the PTA.
 - Mackenzie announces that the process to hire a new Recreation Coordinator has begun, the job is posted online, and will run in the Item as well. Patti asks if the advertising cost will be coming out of the Parks & Recreation budget or if this is something that the Town will pay for? Mackenzie says that she reached out to Town Administrator, Michael Ward regarding this as well as some other questions about the process and is waiting to hear back. Mike suggests Mackenzie talk to the Item and offer herself as a guest column and detail what she is looking for, and what her goals are in terms of assistance. John adds that Ken Cleveland of The Item is already planning on doing a piece on Mackenzie, welcoming her, and discussing the programs. Patti says that Mackenzie could discuss the Recreation Coordinator through that piece. John says that he will reach out again.

· Mackenzie reviews March 2022's programs and events, beginning with the second Princess Tea Party that took place on March 6, 2022, following the success of the first event that took place in late February. Enrollment was able to be increased to accommodate most of the waitlists, and it was a fun time had by all. Mackenzie discusses the 'PD' Playground that occurred on March 11th, she said that there were a lot of younger children who had not previously attended our *playground* programs that had a great time and led a lot of new families to sign up for Summer Playground 2022. Mackenzie continues by talking about the Saint Patrick's Day Scavenger Hunt which took place on March 17th, this is a new event that she hopes to continue in coming years. 10 small businesses and municipal departments got involved, and we had a turnout of over 85 children participating in the Hunt. Mackenzie has been in communication with other departments who would like to be involved next year. Finally, Mackenzie details the BLAST course that took place March 24, 2022. This course is for children 10 years and older, and provides home alone safety and first aid tips, as well as a CPR/AED certification. Due to the waitlist, the department is hoping to host another BLAST course within the next few months.

2. Upcoming Events

· Mackenzie discusses the programs and events that are scheduled already for April. This coming Sunday, April 3, 2022, the department will be hosting a *Tie-Dye Party* utilizing some supplies that we have left over from last summer's programming. This program is a drop off activity, and will occur simultaneously with the PTA Chicken Shoot that is happening at Turner Hall. That way, families have the option to drop their child off for the duration of the event, and can attend the PTA fundraiser. Mackenzie goes on to discuss the April Vacation Playground that is coming up over Clinton Public Schools' April Break. That program is full with 25 participants and has 15 children currently on the waitlist. Mike asks if 25 is the capacity, and Mackenzie says that it is not the capacity, but due to limited staffing this is the number that the department is comfortable hosting, and what was uniform prior to COVID-19. Mackenzie explains that the annual Egg Hunt is scheduled to take place at Fuller Field on April 10th, and this event is full as well with over 130 children signed up, added to the Easter festivities is the Drive Up Easter Bunny Visits that will happen Saturday April 16, 2022. Mackenzie adds that Movin' and Groovin' with Mary, a toddler music program, is also scheduled to begin April 16th. Mackenzie also notes some of the programs and events for May and June that are already up on the enrollment portal, including: the Daddy Daughter Dance, Mother-Son Movie Night, Summer Playground, Teen Adventure, Adult and Children Tennis Clinics, Children's Basketball Clinics. John notes that he is a Tennis Professional and is willing to teach the Adult Tennis lessons.

3. Fence painting at Central Park

· Mackenzie reads notes from Brian Farragher, Director of Facilities, who was unable to be present at the meeting. The note states that this is on their

department's radar, but it is not determined whether this will be outsourced or done in house. It is also noted that facilities is looking to get pricing on painting the fountain and upgrading the plumbing. Mike asks if it is necessary to update the fountain plumbing at this time, and asks if the approved changes from two years ago were ever completed. Amanda circles back to discuss that on the Town Hall side of Central Park, there are missing posts that need to be repaired. Ed notes that the facilities department should explore the avenue of having the people from the house of corrections come out and assist with this type of work. Mike says that this program is called Community Corrections Services, and Amanda explains that this is something that was discussed fully in an October meeting, and Brian was supposed to look into it.

4. Flag for CPR Building

- Amanda notes the importance of having an American Flag in the function room at Clinton Parks & Recreation. Ed agrees, and says that starting meetings with the pledge of allegiance is a common practice with clubs and organizations around town, that he would like to uphold at the Clinton Parks & Recreation Commission Meetings. Amanda would like to have the flags removed that are hung in the windows of the garage. Patti asks that Mackenzie investigate that, and have them removed. Mackenzie agrees that she will look into it. Amanda adds that she is willing to donate a pole or something to have them properly hung. John motions for Mackenzie to look into the flags, and work with Brian to have them hung properly. Patti seconds. All in favor.

5. Splash pad

- Mackenzie reads the note from Brian, stating that he is setting up a date with Lakeside Excavation in late April - early May to test the splash pad. Once this date is scheduled it will be communicated to Mackenzie and the Board. Brian also noted that we have withheld \$10,000 to ensure that it is operational. Amanda expresses concern that this is the same update we received six months ago in October. John notes the withholding, and adds that he will be looking into getting a handicap drinking fountain for the splash pad at cost through a supplier he is familiar with. Amanda also asks about the fencing for the splash pad that was discussed in previous meetings, Mackenzie says that she will add that in her note to Brian expressing the board's questions.

6. Discussion on collaboration with Clinton Public Schools

- Mike references a request he had made as a formal proposal two years ago, he goes on to detail that his suggestion is to utilize the schools, specifically their media arts department, which could help to promote the department's programs via the local cable station. Mackenzie expresses that the difficulty with this form of media marketing is that many of our programs deal with children. It would not be impossible, but would certainly require additional waivers and releases from our participants. Mike goes on to discuss the potential of taking on student interns

and volunteers from the High School. Mike notes that internships could take some creative engineering, but would be worth it. Patti references the Senior Project program through Clinton High School, and that this already exists within the curriculum. Mackenzie says that internships is an idea that we can explore, but as far as volunteering goes, the department has always invited volunteers from the high school, most commonly through the Excel Club, and is something that she absolutely wants to see picking up again as COVID guidelines begin to dissolve. Mike states that he would like to see a closer relationship with the school system, and would ultimately like this partnership to lead to expanding adult programming into Clinton Public Schools' facilities in the evenings. Mackenzie explains that while expanding adult programs is something that the department is very excited to do, the difficulty is that throughout the winter sports season, all of the gyms are being utilized by the school athletics as well as the youth basketball program in town. Mackenzie explains that she also believes that it is important to build relationships with other areas within the municipality, but the scheduling of facility usage has proven difficult in the past, as well as the fact that we would need to work in respect to the schools custodial staffing. Mike would like to discuss creative ways to get around that. Mackenzie says that she will reach out to Clinton Public Schools to explore this idea.

7. New & Old Business

· Patti circles back to discussion of hiring a Recreation Coordinator. She says that she and Mackenzie have both spoken to Town authorities regarding this and have gotten mixed responses. Patti had spoken to Town Administrator, Michael Ward, and he explained that the legal procedure for hiring this position should occur with Mackenzie, as Director, being the lead on it, along with an appointed subcommittee who does the interviewing, and then ultimately the decision comes back to the board who will take a final vote. Mackenzie says that she also spoke with a member of the personnel board, and they had given a different protocol. John suggests that the department handles this the same way that the hiring process for director was handled, to ensure the legality. Patti and Amanda volunteer to be on the subcommittee. Patti makes a motion for her and Amanda to be on the subcommittee if it is needed for this process. John seconds. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 6:47pm